

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Bolivia Seizes Proof of Cuban Plots

By Drew Pearson

Amazing evidence of Communist Cuban penetration into the heart of Latin America has just been captured from Cuban guerrillas in Bolivia. This writer, as a result of his visit to Bolivia last spring, has obtained copies of fake passports of high Cuban leaders, pictures of Che Guevara, Castro's former war minister, and the secret personal diary of Che Guevara written in the Bolivian mountains.

This information comes to light just as the Pan-American foreign ministers are meeting in Washington to consider, among other things, what should be done about Castro's attempts to spread revolution in Latin America.

It also comes to light just as one of the most influential Pan-American statesmen, former President Galo Plaza of Ecuador, has been persuaded to become a candidate for Secretary General of the Organization of American States, where he could play a powerful role in settling Pan American disputes and unifying the hemisphere.

The amazing documentation of Castro's attempts to penetrate part of the continent—Bolivia—came about through the capture of certain Cuban guerrillas and the discovery of caves in which the guerrillas had hidden their papers.

When they went into battle they left their documents be-

hind, fearing capture. But Bolivian authorities have now discovered two caves containing forged passports of Panama, Uruguay and Ecuador, together with snapshots which the guerrillas had taken of each other while going about their camp chores.

Fighters Relax

These photos show Che Guevara when he first arrived clean-shaven and slightly bald. Guevara has been missing for some years and is reported to have been on a mysterious revolutionary mission. The photos bear this out. Subsequent photos show him with a heavy beard. Most of the photos show him smoking a pipe.

There are various photos of guerrillas chopping wood, cooking, reclining in hammocks.

Captured were two Uruguayan passports, No. 130748 and No. 13220, in the name of Adolfo Mena, the assumed name of Che Guevara. Guevara also was able to forge a special letter of introduction on the stationery of the Bolivian "National Office of Information of the President of the Republic."

This document, allegedly signed by the director of press and information, stated:

"The director of press and information of the President of the Republic present Adolfo Mena, special assistant of the Office of American

States, who is effecting a study and acquiring information regarding the social and economic conditions among Bolivian peasants.

"The director orders national authorities and requires all civilians and institutions to give all information to Adolfo Mena that he may wish to acquire and to facilitate his investigation.

"Signed in La Paz, Nov. 3, 1966, by Lopez Munoz, director of press and information."

Director Lopez Munoz had never seen or signed such a document, but the Castro network was so efficient that it was able to secure his stationery and forge his name.

Also captured was a Panamanian passport of the Cuban minister of sugar, Gustavo Ricardo Machin, who fought under the nickname of "Alejandro."

One Cuban guerrilla killed was Juan Acuna, a leading Castroite who fought under the nickname of "Joaquin." His Panamanian passport No. 65736 was dated Dec. 1, 1965.

Among the informal snapshots taken by the guerrillas around their camp were one or two of Tanya, the Cuban girl killed in mountain skirmishes who had been broadcasting to Bolivian peasants as a Latin American "Tokyo Rose." The photographs show her to be about 30 years of age, with bobbed hair. Her broadcasts indicated that she had a cultivated Castilian accent.

Captured in Bolivia last week was another girl guerrilla nicknamed "Loyola."

All the guerrillas, of which it is estimated there are about 50 left, operate under nicknames, such as "China," "Benigno," "Marcos."

Marcos is the nickname of Roberto Bustos, an Argentinian newspaperman so far not captured. The other newspaperman fighting with the guerrillas, Jules Regis Debray, the French Marxist, has been captured, however, and is now held in a Bolivian prison.

Debray's book has been captured, significantly with notes on the margin by Che Guevara. The book is "Revolution in the Revolution," a manual on how to overthrow Latin American governments.

While fighting in the Bolivian mountains, Che Guevara himself kept a diary, now captured. It has been carefully compared with his own handwriting, and there is no mistaking its authenticity. Snapshots of Che Guevara have been blown up and compared with photographs taken during his earlier days with Castro in Havana. They show identical facial detail.

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Drew Pearson will report on the conflict between Secretary of Defense McNamara and the Joint Chiefs of Staff over the bombing of North Vietnam Saturday at 6:40 p.m. over Radio WTOP.